



Department of State

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EXCISE

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ACTION 8CS-03

INFO OCT-01 MEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CA-01 DHA-05 L-03
CIRG-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 M-01 IO-13 YNRE-00
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O.C. CRUMP NOV 77
FM AMEMB TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9108
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/10/81
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CVIS, SHUN, IS, US
SUBJECT: BLACK HEBREWS

REF: KULICK-CRUMP TELCON NOVEMBER 3

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI AUTHORITIES FACE DIFFICULT DECISIONS WHEN BLACK AMERICANS ARRIVE AS TOURISTS BUT APPEAR INTENT TO GO TO DINONA TO JOIN THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY THERE. THE DINONA GROUP ALSO CONSTITUTES A SENSITIVE PROBLEM FOR THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION; THEIR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WILL PROBABLY BE AGGRAVATED BY THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ECONOMIC MEASURE OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE DINONA COMMUNITY WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ON A GENERAL BASIS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY ARRIVING CITIZENS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE OF USE TO THE DEPARTMENT IN BRIEFING CONGRESSMAN STOKES ON THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING BLACK AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO
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ARRIVE IN ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO ARE RESIDENT IN THE BLACK

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INTERIM COMMUNITIES AT DINHNA AND ARAD. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE GIVEN AS COMPLEMENTARY TO OUR PREVIOUS REPORTS (TEL AVIV 6411, 6086, 7000, 7441 AND A-181).

3. TREATMENT OF TOURISTS. WE BELIEVE THAT ALLEGATIONS OF "DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT" UPON ARRIVAL AT LETS OF NON-RESIDENTS OF ALLIED BRIDGES ARE ONLY PARTIALLY CORRECT. OCCASIONALLY BLACK AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE QUESTIONED CLOSELY

UPON ARRIVAL REGARDING THEIR TRAVEL PLANS AND POSSIBLE REASONS FOR VISITING ISRAEL. SOME OF THESE PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO DEPART WITHOUT ENTRY VISA. HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT ANY OF THESE PERSONS HAVE EVER BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSED. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ARRIVING PERSONS ARE OFTEN SUBJECT TO BODY SEARCHES AND CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF LUGGAGE AND IT SHOULD ALSO BE REMEMBERED THAT PERSONS WHO STAY OUT-DOORS OR REFUSE TO LEAVE THE TERMINAL ARE IN SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL MANHANDLING AS A RESULT OF THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

4. THE CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO REPUTE. CERTAINLY IT APPEARS THAT THESE CITIZENS ARE SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE THEIR COLOR ALONE IS GENERALLY THE REASON FOR THEIR BEING SUBJECT TO QUESTIONING AND POSSIBLE DETENTION.

5. A NUMBER OF RECENT CASES ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SUCH INSTANCES.

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INTER. OUR INFORMATION THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ADMITTED THE COUPLE AND THEY THEN JOINED THE COMMUNITY AT DINHNA AND DID NOT DEPART (SEE TEL AVIV 4767). THE MOST UNPLEASANT CASE WAS THAT INVOLVING A GROUP OF TWENTY-

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THE CONSUL GENERAL THEREFORE ADVISED THE TWO AMERICAN TRAVELERS THAT THEY WERE REFUSED ENTRY ON OCTOBER 24. THE AMERICANS WERE THEN CONFINED IN THE CONSULATE AND PERMITTED THEMSELVES TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE CONSULAR OFFICER. THEY STATED THAT THEY INTENDED TO VISIT GUATEMALA AND JERICO ONLY AND HAD NO INTENTION OF VISITING THE BLACK MEXICAN COMMUNITY. THE CONSUL GENERAL OFFICIAL, ONE OF THE AMERICANS AT FIRST CLAIMING HE WAS TRAVELING ALONE AND THEN ADMITTED THAT THE OTHER AMERICAN WAS HIS COUSIN. AFTER INTERVIEWING THEM, THE CONSUL AUTHORITY CONSIDERED THEY INTENDED TO JOIN THE BLACK MEXICAN COMMUNITY AND THEY WERE, THEREFORE, DETAINED AT THE AIRPORT OVERNIGHT AND DEPORTED THE NEXT DAY. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS CLAIMED TO BE DISMAYED BY THE REFUSAL, IT DID NOT APPEAR TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THEY WERE UNUSUALLY UPSET BY THE REFUSAL.

6. WHEN THESE CASES ARISE, THE EMBASSY DISCUSSES WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR THE DETAILS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CASE AND SPEAKS WITH THE CITIZENS CONCERNED. WE CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OUR VIEWS THAT WE FIND THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF SUCH CITIZENS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES SUCH INDIVIDUALS FACE.

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DUALS POSE FOR THE ISRAELI IMMIGRATION OFFICERS. WE HAVE NOT SUBMITTED ANY FORMAL PROTEST, BY MEANS OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE OR LETTER, BUT THE DEPARTMENT CAN ASSURE CONGRESSMAN STOKES THAT THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR VIEW REGARDING THESE CASES.

7. TREATMENT OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY. THE BLACK AMERICANS WHO RESIDE AT DIMONA AND ARAD AND WHO CLAIM TO BE HEBREWS REPRESENT A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. THESE CASES INVOLVE THE VERY BASIC AND EXTREMELY SENSITIVE PROBLEM OF DETERMINATION OF "WHO IS A JEW." THE PROBLEM IS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE CITIES OF DIMONA AND ARAD ARE FACED WITH SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN ASSIMILATING AND ACCEPTING THESE OUTSIDERS.

C. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE REGULARLY VISITED THE TWO GROUPS:
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THE MOST RECENT VISIT WAS BY A CONSULAR OFFICER ON NOV 1. ON NONE OF THESE OCCASIONS ATTEMPTED TO ACT AS AN INTER-MEDIARY BETWEEN THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, BUT REMAINED IN CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNITY KEPT IN TOUCH. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXTEND WHAT ASSISTANCE IT CAN TO THE COMMUNITY, AND SUCH ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN

9. ON THE MOST RECENT VISIT THE LEADER OF THE BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN DIMONA WAS SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE REGARDING LIVING CONDITIONS THAN HE WAS DURING A RECENT VISIT BY THE UNION AMERICANS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL COMMITTEE (BASIS).
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WHILE THE KNOWING OCCURRED BY THE SECT IS LIMITED AND THEY ARE OVERSTATED, THEIR GENERAL HEALTH IS GOOD EXCEPT FOR RESPIRATORY AND NUTRITIONAL ILLNESSES SUFFERED BY YOUNGER CHILDREN. HOWEVER, THIS LEADER ADMITTED THAT THE GENERAL INCOME OF THE COMMUNITY HAS FALLEN BECAUSE OF THE SHORT TERM NATURE OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. WE BELIEVE THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE GROUP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AGGRAVATED IN THE WEEKS AHEAD BY THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

10. OUR EFFORTS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF ITS LEADERS HAVE RENOUNCED THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND HAVE THEREBY TECHNICALLY CUT THEMSELVES OFF FROM AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.

11. WE HAVE NOTED IN STATE 264264 THAT CODEL SIMON/STOKES MAY WISH TO GO TO DIMONA TO MEET WITH THE BLACK HEBREWS AND WE ARE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING A MEETING AND ACCOMPANYING THE CODEL IF IT SO DESIRES. LEWIS

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